

Youth Investment Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 6, 2014 9:00am

Present: Lauren Balkan, David Blevins, Sherri Goldberg, Charles Hager, Bertalan Kormann, Ushindi Lewis, Evelyn Rosa, Harriet Slonim, Naomi Vliet, Ivan Adorno, Jeff Shulman, Earl Wiggley

Staff: Jody Bramson, Shamar Spencer, Rick DeJesus, Hilda Alonso, Janice Alexander

Jody Bramson, Youth One Stop Manager, began the meeting with the introduction of all present members and guests. Lauren Balkan approved the previous minutes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Bramson announced the retirement of Jane Brady, effective May 2, 2014. She informed the YIC members that Adrienne Keaton is the Acting Director for Middlesex County Office of Workforce Development until a new Director is hired.

Ms. Bramson presented Janice Alexander as the new Youth Office Assistant.

Resignation of Chair Earl Wiggley

Ms. Bramson announced the resignation of Earl Wiggley, Chairperson for YIC. She informed the YIC members that Mr. Wiggley is being transferred to the Massachusetts office.

Ms. Bramson informed the YIC members that Susan Pasternack from Raritan Bay Medical Center volunteered to become the new Chairperson for YIC. Since Susan Pasternack is requesting to have the Youth Investment Council meetings moved to Perth Amboy, we have to find a new location in Perth Amboy for those meetings, and Ms. Bramson will advise the YIC members when a new location is found.

RFP (Request for Proposal)

Ms. Bramson reported that the Youth department received two proposals: one from Middlesex County College and the other from Jewish Renaissance Foundation. The Middlesex County College proposal was approved. Ms. Bramson reported that the Youth department received their budget for this year for \$2 million, effective July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015.

HSC (High School Equivalency test) update

Ms. Bramson reported that the first HSE was administered in Middlesex County at the New Brunswick Adult Learning Center in April, 2014 to 12 candidates. Of those 12; 11 participants finished the test, 7 participants passed all sections of the test, 1 participant failed math only, 2 participants failed writing only, and 1 participant failed both math and writing.

Ms. Bramson reported that 11 WIA youth from the Perth Amboy and Carteret GED programs also took the test when it was administered at the Perth Amboy Adult School in April. It is anticipated that it will take 15 days to receive the results of the examination.

Recommended Out of School Youth Programs for 2014-2015

Charles Hager from MC Family Court announced that they lost the Federal funding for JDGD. Mr. Hager asked if there was enough money in this year's YIC budget to start a new aftercare program for youth coming out of prison. Ms. Bramson stated that she doesn't know how the money is going to be allocated, and that a new Request for Proposal ("RFP") might be coming out in a couple of months. Ms. Bramson informed Mr. Hager that she will discuss the issue with Nina Rios-Rivera to find out about the progress of the RFP.

REPORTS OF YOUTH STAFF FOR CURRENT YEAR STATS/ISSUES/SUCCESS STORIES

Enrollment Stats for MCC Youth Programs: Jody Bramson

Ms. Bramson reported that the youth program is serving 136 participants including carry-in. 65 participants are from Middlesex County College. There were 3 participants in ITA. The overall goal for enrollment this year is 175.

Enrollment Stats for MCWAG and Industry Tours: Hilda Alonso

Hilda Alonso, MCWAG Coordinator, reported there were a total of 18 participants in the MCWAG program including 5 carry overs. There are 13 new participants. Out of the 18 participants 6 are active, 2 are placed, 12 are terminated, and 8 were successfully terminated. The goal for the year is 25 participants in the MCWAG program.

Ms. Bramson informed the YIC members that the Wegmans tour was very successful. The next Industry tour will be a visit to Rutgers Maintenance Department on May 14, 2014. Ms. Alonso has already coordinated a tour for Park Site for October, 2014.

Enrollment Stats for MC4YOU NB: Juan DeJesus

Juan DeJesus, MC4YOU New Brunswick Youth Coordinator, reported there were a total of 25 participants in the program. There are 6 new participants. Mr. DeJesus reported 1 participant received employment, 1 participant had transportation problems, 4 are attending two weeks orientation and 6 were in ITA.

Enrollment Stats for MC4YOU Perth Amboy: Shamar Spencer

Shamar Spencer, MC4YOU Perth Amboy Youth Coordinator, reported there were 36 participants served this year. 9 participants were terminated, 14 participants were in ITA, and 23 participants completed an ITA.

Transportation

Ms. Bramson reported that members of the WIB Board had approved extra transportation money for the youth. Students who drive their own car to school will get paid \$.51 a mile for every mile over 20 if they are traveling 21 miles or more a day. Ms. Bramson stated the program can only pay participants that are driving themselves to training (family members and others are not entitled to mileage reimbursement).

Jody Bramson informed the YIC members that the program can pay for driving lesson and licenses because those are included in the youth funds.

Youth Measure

Jody Bramson reported that we are currently meeting all measures of performance for the youth programs.

DVR Referral (Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services)

Bertalan Kormann from Johnson Rehabilitation Institute asked how many youth are being referred to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services ("DVR") after they finish their training? Ms. Bramson advised that we have a lot of participants who were referred to DVR after they finished their training, but that she could not give him exact numbers because the Youth department doesn't keep track of how many participants are referred.

Recruitment

A booth was set up and manned by youth staff at Woodbridge Center Mall on Thursday's and Friday's the last week of March and the first two weeks of April in order to disseminate information about WIA Youth programs and services. This was met with a low turnout. Alternatively other malls and venues through Middlesex County will be sought out as other options.

Youth Staff set up a table and disseminated information at the Esperanza Neighborhood Project in New Brunswick for Cinco de Mayo (a flyer was shown at the meeting).

An advertisement for WIA Youth programs is being displayed on the MCAT (public transportation vehicles) for 12 weeks. It started March 31, 2014.

Jody Bramson adjourned the meeting.

The next YIC meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2014